

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A drying device comprising opposed sheets of flexible material co-joined along peripheral edge portions thereof wherein at least one of said sheets is provided with a multiplicity of small apertures over at least substantially its whole surface area, said drying device also comprising connector means for attachment of an air blower thereto, whereby, when said drying device is in use, air from an air blower is fed between said sheets and through said multiplicity of small apertures to remove moisture from a surface to be dried,

wherein said drying device comprises a connector for co-joining one drying device with another like drying device, and

wherein said connector is provided by a collar of flexible material having quick release portions for ready attachment and detachment to and from each drying device.

2. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 1 wherein said opposed sheets of flexible material are co-joined by a plurality of webs extending therebetween to form longitudinal channels between said sheets.

3. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 2 wherein said webs are each provided with perforations to facilitate, when said drying device is in use, even distribution of air from an air blower attached to the drying device.

4. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 1 wherein said connector means comprises edge portions of quick release material for effecting the ready attachment and detachment of an air blower thereto.

5. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 1 wherein said flexible material is a synthetic waterproof material.

6. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 5 wherein said synthetic waterproof material is plastic.

7. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 1 wherein said drying device comprises support means, effective when the drying device is in use, to position said drying device adjacent a wall or a ceiling to be dried.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The drying device of Claim 1 wherein said opposed flexible sheets are at least substantially rectangular in shape.

11. (Previously presented) A method of drying a carpet after cleaning or immersion in water comprising the steps of:

- a) placing the drying device of Claim 1 with a sheet having apertures therein overlying a carpet;
- b) attaching an air blower to said drying device; and
- c) blowing air into said drying device and through said apertures to dry said carpet.

12. (Previously presented) A method of drying a dwelling after the ingress of water thereto comprising the steps of:

- a) placing the drying device of Claim 1 with at least one sheet having apertures therein against a surface, or between surfaces to be dried;
- b) attaching an air blower to said drying device; and

- c) blowing air into said drying device and through the apertures in said at least one sheet to dry said surface of surfaces.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said surface to be dried is:

- a) a floor; or
- b) a wall; or
- c) a ceiling; or
- d) those surfaces bounding a closed space between floorboards and a base.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein said air is heated to above ambient temperature.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein said air is heated to above ambient temperature.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein said air is heated to above ambient temperature.